

INDIANA SINCLAIR-TIMEX USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Sample issue August 1986

Welcome back to the world of computing in Indiana! I would first of all like to go over some of the items I have noticed going on in the area of TS/ZX computers.

The first is the end of the Timex-Sinclair Magazine called SUM. This was one of my favorite computer mags and I learned a lot from it, however now they have been merged with TIME DESIGNS magazine and even though we will probably have a better mag...it is still one less than we had before. Both of the guys who put out SUM magazine got to the point that their careers were taking up a lot of their time and with the mag they were being stretched too thin. They will still be having some input into TIME DESIGNS, and I encourage you to subscribe.

The Second is that the price of the QL may be going back up. That is the word being put out by Knighted Computers. They have said in their latest sales flyer that as soon as their present stock is exhausted that they will be raising the price of the QL. I do not know if this is just them, or a universal happening. If you were wanting one and had been putting it off, now just may be a good time to check it out and if the price will soon be raised you may save some bucks by buying now.

The third item is that ISTUG now has its very own BBS, so those members who have modems with their computers now have one more access to data and friends. It is being run off of a TS2068 and the SYSOP (systems operator) is our very own Willie Jones. The program being used was originally written by Randy and Lucy Gordon of the Cincinnati Timex-Sinclair Users Group. The program has been much improved upon by the hard work of Willie Jones, Paul Holmgren and Joe Payne. The number to call up via modem is 317-898-3903 (not 898-3906 as I erroneously told a few people I sent cards to recently). 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Another Indiana Timex BBS is operated by Mark Farmer of Clarksville, Indiana. It operates from 11:30 PM to 5PM daily and the number is 812-282-4023. Now all we need is to get a board going in the North part of the state and we can get our own network going. Give Mark a call and make a friend.

Here is the dues structure set up for ISTUG. For those who are too far away to attend meetings or out of state but would still like to be able to use the BBS and receive the newsletter plus have the technical support of the group on both hardware and software, the dues are \$7.50 a year. For full membership in the group which includes all of the above plus special saving on group buys on software, meetings and full use of the group library of books, mags and programs the cost is \$10.00 a year. The first three issues of the newsletter are being given out free. This is the third issue. All paid memberships of both kinds will start after this date. Any questions on this call me the Editor, Frank Davis, at 317-473-4885. Or you can leave a message to me on our BBS at 317-898-3903.

If you know of someone who would be interested in getting a free copy of our newsletter, let me know or have them call or write to me. For other User Groups we will do a free exchange of newsletters with them. When they do an exchange with us they will get the right to reprint material from our newsletter and we would like to have that reciprocated whenever possible. This way we can get a better spread of data. SOFF please

ENGLISH MICRO CONNECTION

Just a short note to let all of you know. I mentioned some bad service on getting a refund or replacement on a faulty program I purchased from English Micro Connection. I called up the owner one more time and mentioned that I had turned it over to the Postal Inspectors and within a week he sent me a refund. He said he had sent out many refunds on Spectrum programs, which he no longer handles, and that I had somehow fallen through the net. It is finally over for me but it took almost nine months to get settled.

I am quite a user of Spectrum programs and would love to hear from anyone out there who has a good source of them or would like to sell or trade some they no longer need or want. It might even be a good idea for us to use our BBS to place personal ads to each other for used software and hardware.

TIMEX TS1000 SOFTWARE SALE

Thanks to Jack Payne we have an ample supply of original TS1000 software by Timex for sale at much reduced prices for members of ISTUG, all members. We will also have a supply of TS2040 paper at a low price. Members may pick up software at meetings for only a dollar a program, all new in cases with documentation. For those unable to attend, send a self addressed mailer and \$1.50 a program and we will mail them to you. Some examples of what we have are as follows: Budgeter, Checkbook Manager, Auto Analyzer, Organizer, IRA Planner, Coupon Manager, Stock option Analyzer, Vu-File, Stock Market Tech Analysis, List Manager, Super Math, States and Capitals, Flight Simulator, Language Usage, Presidents, Punctuation Master, Ator the ABC Gator, Capitalization Master, Total Triangles, Music Educator 1, Conversational German, French, Spanish, Spelling Bee, Fundamentals of Math, Doobarry Domino, Chess, Backgammon and Dice, Pinball, Gambler, Cube Game, Grimms Fairy Trails, Mixed Game Bag 1, Supermaze, Bigflap Attack, Ram Runner, Stock Market Game, Fortress of Zorlac, Trap, Strategy Football, Trident, Challenger, Mixed Game Bag 3.

That is quite a few programs for the old TS1000. Be sure to list alternates if you order through the mail, or if you do not want an alternate we will mail your check back in the mailer if postage is on it. Make checks out to Willie Jones as he is handling this for us. I hope this type service is helpful to all of you. Willie's address: 10126 E 33RD Street, Indianapolis, IN 46236. Postage should be 39 cents for the first program and 34 cents for each additional program.

LISTING SCANNER

by Paul Holmgren

Here is a short program of Paul's that was printed once before, only this time we will include the changes so that it will also run on the TS2068. If you get tired of listing a long program to find mistakes or to alter the program, then you will find it helpful. It may save your nerves and give you less eyestrain. This routine can be placed anywhere that is convenient in a listing, and uses about 200 bytes. In fast mode on the TS1000 it works great. Paul does not suggest using VAL within the loop because of its effect on the program speed.

LISTING SCANNER TS1000 & TS2068

```
10 LET D=VAL "16509"
15 CLS
20 LET G=PEEK D*256+PEEK (D+SGN PI)
25 LET D=D+VAL"4"
30 PRINT AT PI,4-LEN STR$ G;G;
35 IF PEEK D=126 THEN LET D=D+6
40 IF PEEK D=118 THEN LET G=NOT G
45 IF G THEN PRINT CHR$ PEEK D;
50 LET D=D+SGN PI
55 IF G THEN GOTO 35
60 IF PEEK D=118 THEN STOP
65 PAUSE D
70 GOTO VAL"15"
```

The above program as listed is for the TS1000, and I will now give you the changes to make to get it to run on the TS2068.

LINE 10 instead of 16509, substitute 26710.
line 35 instead of 126, substitute 14.
LINE 40 & LINE 60 instead of 118, substitute 13.

If you also want to have this listing printed out on a TS2040 printer, then change PRINT to LPRINT, and make one of the last lines to include 2 extra LPRINTs to space lines on the paper.

NEXT ISTUG MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by Jack and Joe Payne and will be in Rushville, IN on August 23 at 1:30 PM at the Occupational Development Center, 234 North Main. This is next door to Radio Shack. For those coming in by Highway #52 East, you turn North at the first stop light (Highway #3 which is also Main Street) and go one half block and the building is on the East side.

I hope to see as many of you there as possible and I know that the Paynes want to use this as a chance to rekindle some local interest in some Timex and Sinclair users in their area.

I, Frank Davis, will be demonstrating my ROTRONICS WAFADRIVE system, a dual 128K stringy floppy drive, with a Centronics Parallel and an RS232C interface, plus a SPECTRUM buss out the back.

Joe Payne is planning to show us how he has interfaced one of his TS2068's with a Heath HERO robot. That sounds interesting to me.

TIPS FOR WAFADRIVES and A&J 2000

Two tips for you. One is to always format your tapes more than once before using them, the reason for this being that the tapes can stretch a bit through normal use and you could later have difficulty with a tape this has not been done with. Also on both of these machines you do need to clean them the same as you would a tape recorder. I have had times the old screen told me a wafer was not inserted and I could see right in front of me that it was. When I cleaned the tape head the machine was aware that the tape was inserted.